

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 332

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mairon Hensley “Bud” Godwin of McMinnville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mairon Hensley “Bud” Godwin; and

WHEREAS, Bud Godwin was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as a sign-on announcer at WBMC radio, in which position he earned the loyalty and respect of his listening audience for the exemplary quality of his program, his uplifting messages, and comfortingly familiar voice; and

WHEREAS, just after the sign-on salute with the national anthem, Mr. Godwin, with his trademark velvety baritone voice, would call generations of Warren countians to meet the new day and to embrace the challenges and opportunities of school or work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Godwin’s early morning show served as a wake-up call for tens of thousands of radio listeners starting with his first day at AM 960 in 1957; that show featured local news, weather, obituaries, and reports on school closings; and

WHEREAS, those closest to Bud Godwin, an icon of local radio, say he had an instinctive grasp of his audiences’ music preferences, an easy-going charm, and natural talent; and

WHEREAS, he also had a way with words, lending special energy and vitality to the subject of the moment; and

WHEREAS, a Maury County native, Bud Godwin was born October 24, 1924, to James Hensley and Dorcas Lucille Walters Godwin; and

WHEREAS, growing up as the youngest of six siblings, he was immersed in church and gospel music; his grandfather was a song leader in the Methodist country church the family attended; and

WHEREAS, he served his country proudly as a member of the United States Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from war, Mr. Godwin went to work for the Tennessee Valley Authority; he soon became acquainted with the then-manager of the newly inaugurated WBMC; and

WHEREAS, fascinated by radio, Mr. Godwin immediately applied for a job as an announcer; that job launched a career spanning a half-century and produced a beloved radio personality respected by devoted listeners around the region; and

WHEREAS, his popularity as a radio announcer grew rapidly in those early days, and he was honored with the prestigious DJ-USA designation in 1962; he was also asked to serve as Master of Ceremonies for grandstand events at the Warren County Agriculture and Livestock Fair where it is believed his mellow, resonant voice calmed the animals; and

WHEREAS, Bud Godwin was an active and devout member of First United Methodist church, which served faithfully for many years ; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-three years, the former Reba Jean Fitzgerald, and was the proud parent of eight children and their spouses, Dennis Godwin, Cherry and Joe Falkenberry, Nick Godwin, David and Glenna Godwin, Dan and Lisa Godwin, Joey and Rona Godwin, Jack Godwin, and Christopher and Melissa Godwin; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his grandchildren and their spouses, Marcy and Brad Bolding, Jeremy Godwin, Jason Welle, Cherodi Allen, Daniel Falkenberry, Heather and Pat Doughtie, Sarah Godwin, Davey Godwin, Aaron Godwin, Chelsea Godwin, Peyton Godwin, Andrew Godwin, Cole Godwin, Christa Godwin, Cameron Furbee, Katie Furbee, and Desiree Falkenberry; and great-granchildren and their spouses, T.J. and Torrye Rigsby, Khristopher and Nathan Allen, Vanessa and Ivy Welle, Savannah Godwin, Brendan Doughtie, Ethan Daily, and Jailyn Bolding; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Bud Godwin was preceded in death by two grandsons, Jacob Godwin and Mike Daily, great-grandson, Tyler Doughtie, and five sisters; and

WHEREAS, Bud Godwin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mairon Hensley “Bud” Godwin, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, as we recognize his exemplary career as an announcer for WBMC radio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Godwin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.